

Response
Serial No. 10/719,020
Attorney Docket No. 032130

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-5 and 8-10 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

(1) Claims 1, 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,779,873 (Law, et al.).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of the concentration of the phosphorous of 20 to 150g/L. The amendment is supported at page 7, lines 9-16. The phosphoric acid disclosed by Law et al. is "5g/L" (col. 3, line 29). The phosphorous concentration of amended claim 1 is outside the disclosure of Law et al. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is not supported by law et al. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(2) Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kazanovtse, et al. (WPI World Patent Information Derwent, Vol. 29).

Claim 6 depends on amended claim 1, directly or indirectly. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Response
Serial No. 10/719,020
Attorney Docket No. 032130

(3) Claims 8 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,888,574(Rice et al.).

As admitted by the Examiner, Rice et al. do not disclose sulfamic acid nor its salt. Examples 1-5 with nickel sulfamate should be compared with Comparative Examples without sulfamic acid or its salt. For example, the samples' appearance was much better in the Examples 1-5, which was an unexpected result of the claimed invention. Thus, the invention of claims 8-19 is not anticipated by, nor obvious over, Rice et al.

In addition, as admitted by the Examiner, Rice et al. teach away from including a sulfate and chloride. On the other hand, the limitations of claims 8-19, which depend on claim 2, call for "at least one of sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, and salts of the same claims," in addition to the recitations of amended claim 1. Whereas the circuit board materials of Rice et al. are brittle (col.5, lines 21-24), the conductive base of claims 8-19 shows sufficient property as shown in Table 1. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

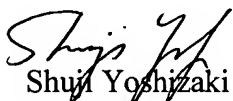
(4) In view of the above, claims 1-19, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

Response
Serial No. 10/719,020
Attorney Docket No. 032130

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachment: Petition for Extension of Time
Limited Recognition

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